



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

DATE: June 30, 2014

LOCATION: Main Library, Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by Chairperson Sterbenc at 5:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 13 Chairperson, Kathryn Sterbenc
Vice Chair, Andrew Racle
Commissioner, Shanthi Gonzales
Commissioner, Ruby Bernstein
Commissioner, Victoria Barbero
Commissioner, Ain Bailey
Commissioner Lesley Mandros Bell
Commissioner, Roy Chan
Commissioner, Susanne Perkins
Commissioner, David Bolaños
Commissioner, April Harper
Commissioner, Jeanine Shimatsu

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: 1 Commissioner, Noelle Tu Duong

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: 1 Commissioner, Daniel Belay
(one vacancy)

STAFF PRESENT: Gerry Garzón, Library Director
Winifred Walters, Community Relations
Mana Tominaga, Supervising Librarian
Jamie Turbak, Interim Associate Director
Rosalía Romo, Executive Assistant & Recorder

OTHERS: Peter Kim and Dan Simmons, Oakland Unite Programs of the Department of Human Services.

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Sterbenc called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of May 19, 2014.

Commissioner Bernstein made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded; Commissioner Mandros Bell seconded the motion. Motion approved:

Votes: Yes - 12; Noes – 0; abstentions - 0

2. California Reads: Veterans Services & Programs at OPL

- Supervising Librarian Mana Tominaga gave an overview of California Reads: Veterans Services. OPL is one of 43 libraries throughout California to be awarded a grant by Cal Humanities for programming about the veteran experience. The goals are to increase public understanding and empathy for those who have served and to spark a public conversation on how best we can support the process of reincorporating our veterans into the fabric of civilian life. OPL's program partners are: Veterans for Peace East Bay, DAV National Service Office Oakland, and Unsung Heroes Oral History Project. Programs will take place from September-November 2014. The library has a number of information kiosks at the branches with referrals and various resources to different organizations to help veterans start rebuilding their connections and find success.

3. Prisoner Re-Entry in the City of Oakland

- Peter Kim and Dan Simmons, with Oakland Unite Programs of the Department of Human Services, started their presentation by explaining that this program was established through the Measure Y tax ballot initiative - - the violence prevention and public safety Act - - about 60% of funding goes to the Police Department, and 40% goes to social services programs specifically for violence prevention. Human Services Department is able to augment funding for the Prisoner Re-Entry program which focuses on providing support and resources for people coming out of jail to rebuild relationships and reintegrate into their communities. Services include mental health for minors, youth employment training opportunities and assistance with housing and jobs. The Re-entry program has seen a drastic reduction in violent crimes, but it also needs more funding. OPL staff will follow-up with Oakland Unite to identify opportunities to work together on this effort.

4. Chairperson's Commission Activities Report

- Budget Update: The LAC joined members of Save Our Library, Youth Leadership Council, Branch Friends and staff at both budget hearings so far. Thanked commissioners Roy Chan, Lesley Mandros Bell and Jeanine Shimatsu for speaking at the hearings; and commissioners Barbero, Bolaños, Bernstein for their presence and support. Commissioners will continue working with council members to look for additional funding for Measure Q.
- National Night Out – August 5: One of the recommendations in our discussions of collaboration between the OPL, the LAC and the Police Department, was to participate in National Night Out. This gives Commissioners an opportunity to spread the word about the deficit, get email addresses for the LAC newsletter, and hand out fliers and other OPL materials; and also to collaborate with OPD. Commissioners are encouraged to sign-up and participate.
- The LAC was awarded the Citizens-Save-Libraries Grant offered by United for Libraries! to help libraries with troubled budgets. United for Libraries will provide training for advocacy. The LAC needs at least five volunteers who are committed to working on a leadership team for the grant. This commitment may require at least weekly meetings for up to 90 days, and should include community advocates on this team (staff, FOPL, YLC and Branch Friends),

as well as commissioners. This is an amazingly well-timed and valuable opportunity for LAC to get maximum experience and support for our sustainability effort.

- Public Safety Recommendations: Submitted the final memo to Joe DeVries with LAC's feedback – third recommendation: encourage OPD to send more officers to do Storytime.

5. OPL Staff Activities Reports

a. Directors Report –

Director Garzón highlighted three items from his written report:

- Met with City of Piedmont City Administrator to begin the discussion re contracted library services provided to Piedmont residents. Currently, Oakland pays \$55 per capita for library services; City of Piedmont pays about thirty dollars per capita.
- Jamie Turbak and Director Garzón met with the Emeryville City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Clerk and City liaison to the Emery Unified School District to discuss their plans for a joint City-School public library, currently planned to open in 2016 as part of the Emeryville Center of Community Life. Emeryville does not have a current library service contract with Oakland.
- Assault incident at Golden Gate branch. The perpetrator was involved in another incident and was arrested eventually. Safety in our libraries has been a priority in the last couple of months. Patrons who violate the Guidelines for Behavior are subject to suspension from libraries; suspensions are for a period of time, days up to months, depending on the incident.
- Commissioners like the new format of the Director's report, which they can use and share at other meetings.

5. Standing Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee

- Budget history handout (Attachment C) is an informational document to help commissioners explain the library's budget. This is not for public distribution. Chairperson called for a motion to approve chart with minor corrections. Commissioner Bolaños made a motion to approve chart. Commissioner Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion approved.
Votes: Yes - 12; Noes – 0; abstentions - 0
- Another document available for commissioners to share when speaking at public events and sharing with groups is: "OPL needs your help!"
- Public safety recommendations document was finalized and sent to Joe DeVries as requested.
- Advocacy training grant was awarded to LAC. Need a minimum of 5 participants to help us on our advocacy campaign (2 days of training, and possibly weekly meetings).
Commissioners interested: Perkins, Harper, Barbero, Bailey, Bernstein, Gonzales, Shimatsu.

Networking Committee Update

- Commissioner Barbero reminded commissioners to provide their contact list for speaking engagements. Planning another speaking course, and elevator speech training for new commissioners. Next mixer has been scheduled for November 16, 1-3pm, and would like to hold it at AAMLO again (staff will check with AAMLO for availability). Commissioners Barbero and Chan met with Council member Pat Kernighan who thinks the LAC should keep pressing City Council in support of libraries.

Social Media

- Commissioner Harper would like to start a meet-up group. Meet-up.com is a website to talk about any topic, search for library advocates and supporters. The cost is about \$12/month, and the LAC can try it for 6 months. The LAC can use grant money from FOPL to pay for this, since it is not a political forum. Will discuss further at the next Networking Committee meeting; and will advertise the meet-up event on the LAC's Facebook page.

8. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports:

- Commissioner Bernstein – There will be a “Love our Neighborhood Day” celebration on July 12th in the Golden Gate branch area. The Friends group is participating and is looking for 4 volunteers. Also, the jazz festival will get started soon. The incident and assault that occurred at the branch has been difficult for staff.
- Commissioner Gonzales – has not had the chance to visit ML King library due to her school board campaign. There has been some vandalism, and people suspect it is the same person.
- Commissioner Racle - worked on the budget chart, getting feedback on advocacy groups. Next step is to make something that can be shared with the public, turning it into a public message and it is really important to continue working on this; it should be from the coalition to the community, not from LAC.
- Commissioner Sterbenc – announced book launch party “This is Oakland”. Coalition meeting update (see Chair's report above).
- Commissioner Harper – no report
- Commissioner Bolaños – no report
- Commissioner Perkins – lunch program going well at Melrose branch, and the summer programs bringing a lot of people. The Friends will donate money for the summer reading prizes. The branch is dealing with a homeless issue again, and staff worked with “Operation Dignity” to relocate them; the neighbors have complained to OPD, who in turn refers them to call the branch staff. Director Garzón added that these types of situations are happening at other branch libraries, and other locations in the city. There is a process in place and staff is to report these incidents in order for the appropriate departments to follow-up.
- Commissioner Shimatsu – The Friends of 81st Ave. branch held their first book sale and raised over \$280.
- Commissioner Chan – Asian branch is very busy during the summer. The history project is coming along, with plans to have a release event to coincide with the LAC public hearing.
- Commissioner Mandros Bell – met with tool lending staff, held a neighborhood garage sale and asked for tool donations. There is a report of some grant money coming to the tool lending library.
- Commissioner Bailey – Met with Montclair branch manager. There was a bullying incident at the branch involving a student from the school next door, with staff doing some follow-up with the school. Commissioner Bailey will follow-up about the library remodeling plans.
- Commissioner Barbero – Lakeview branch has a new part-time children's librarian. The rat problem is under control. Staff is now dealing with a homeless problem and believes it is going to take a task force to follow-through. The Friends bought a cart for staff to carry the new book bins.

9. Agenda Building:

- Reminder – the July 28 LAC meeting will be held at the Golden Gate branch.
- Short presentation on the homeless issue and the City's progress.
- Maintenance responsibilities of library facilities.

10. Open Forum/Announcements - None

11. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Submitted by:

/s/

Gerry Garzón, Library Director